



LIFE AND DEATH DECISIONS ON THE JOB

by Joe Wiley - Troubleman for AMP

"I LOST A BROTHER"

A few years ago, in a tragic accident, I lost a brother. I had never met him, but he was my brother nonetheless. My brother was a lineworker for a local power company.

To get to the location where he needed to make repairs, he "free climbed" up a utility pole, which means that nothing secured him to the pole except his own hands and feet. But he lost his footing and fell to his death. One small miscalculation cost him his life.

TROUBLEMAN

At Alameda Municipal Power (AMP), I have the role of "troubleman," which means that I identify the issues behind electrical problems. I'm part of a community of electrical workers and a community of neighbors and families. I'm raising my family in Alameda, and



going home safely each night after work means everything to me.

HIGHEST SAFETY STANDARDS

I'm proud that AMP, which has brought electricity to Alameda homes and businesses since 1887, insists on the highest safety standards in the business. AMP earned a first-place award from the American Public Power Association for safe operating practices in 2015.

A JOB WITH HIGH FATALITY RATES

When I think about the statistics, I'm grateful for AMP's culture of safety. It wasn't until 2014 that the federal government finally set rules for the use of special safety gear to avoid falls.

Even with more safety rules in place, electrical power-line installation and repair jobs continue to rank near the top of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' list of jobs with the highest

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GET READY NOW FOR STORMS AHEAD

You know it's no fun to shop at hardware stores during a storm, looking desperately for any remaining flashlights in stock.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE

This year, don't wait until the last minute to plan for storms this fall and winter. It's good news that AMP has few outages, with a record for providing reliable service that is in the top

quartile of the western United States.

But just in case we're in for some nasty weather, make sure that you'll be prepared for storms and possible power outages by stocking up now on flashlights, extra batteries and nonperishable food.

Find more information on how to plan for short power outages at www.alamedamp.com/outages.

**CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT:
ALAMEDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**



Founded in 1929, the Alameda Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization that provides advocacy and programs for the local business community. The Chamber encourages business growth and a thriving economy in Alameda.

JOINING ALAMEDA GREEN

The organization that empowers Alameda businesses is now powered by clean, renewable energy. The Alameda Chamber of Commerce recently joined AMP's Alameda Green program, which offers 100 percent renewable power to enrollees. More than 2,100 of AMP's residential and commercial customers now participate in the program.

SAID MARK SORENSON - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"The Alameda Chamber of Commerce chose to purchase 100% Green-e Energy certified clean energy, through AMP, because it gave us the opportunity to make an immediate, positive change in making Alameda, already second to none for being green, an even greener community for today and the next generation of Alamedans to come."

Alameda Chamber of Commerce
2215-A South Shore Center – 510-522-0414



Liz Warmerdam, an Alameda assistant city manager, was recently named interim general manager of AMP by Alameda City Manager Jill Keimach. The former general manager, Glenn Steiger, retired in September. He had served in that position since 2014. The city of Alameda is currently conducting a nationwide search for a permanent general manager.

**NEW INTERIM
GENERAL
MANAGER**

fatality rates. For every 100,000 electric line workers, the rate for fatalities is around 19.

1890s - MOST LIFE-THREATENING JOB

If you think the present-day statistics are grim, consider the history of line work. Back in the 1890s, electric line workers in some parts of the country had a 50 percent chance of dying on the job, according to a history of our profession by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). On top of that, the IBEW has documented that electrical workers had the most life-threatening job of all industries in the U.S. at that time. Union electrical workers even dedicated funds for funerals as a benefit for members.

TRAINING, TRAINING, TRAINING

Electric lineworkers in Alameda, and all across America, understand and accept that our jobs are dangerous. It takes four years of training and testing to become a journeyman lineworker. It doesn't stop there: My AMP brothers and I focus on our safety training each day at work. This culture of safety is a key reason why AMP has won national recognition for reliable electric service, too.

PUBLIC POWER WEEK

Public Power Week, which runs from Oct. 2-8 this year, is a celebration of the rich tradition of service that our nation's 2,200 community-owned utilities bring to their communities. With its attention to worker safety, it's easy to understand why I'm proud of my homegrown, locally controlled electric utility, Alameda Municipal Power.

Join us during Public Power Week to honor the commitment that lineworkers and public utilities make to their communities in Alameda and throughout the nation. 🇺🇸

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